

2020 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE PITTSFIELD

Funded Partners: 18 Degrees - Pittsfield Community Connections, Pittsfield Police Department

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation*

Total Funding: \$330,255

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	103 Received Case Management Services 6 Successfully Referred to Education or Employment Services	35 Received Street Outreach Services 8 Successfully Referred to Mental Health Services	\$224,205
Education & Employment	21 Participated in Employment Programs	11 Obtained Unsubsidized Employment Position	\$28,025
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	12 Developed Communication & Conflict Resolution Skills	7 Developed Leadership Skills	\$28,025
Suppression	30 Hot Spot Patrols Completed	7 High-Impact Players Arraigned	\$50,000

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations.

Youth Risk Assessments

35% LOW-RISK*	Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
44% MODERATE-RISK*	Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
21% HIGH-RISK*	Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Success Highlight

"When this youth came to PCC she expressed being in an abusive relationship. With the assistance of her case manager, she was able to find gainful employment, save some money and leave the relationship. This youth left a toxic/controlling relationship, moved back home and is going back to school and registered for BCC [Berkshire Community College] classes for early education, while she works at a daycare and continues to improve her life."
~18 Degrees-Pittsfield Community Connection

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Thomas A. Turco III, Secretary
To learn more visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/shannon-community-safety-initiative-csi>

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Pittsfield

Total Population (2019 Estimate)	6,892,503	42,142
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	14.6%
Unemployment Rate	8.0%	10.7%
Total School Population (2019-20)	983,058	6,157
Economically Disadvantaged	36.6%	58.6%
High School Dropout Rate	1.8%	2.3%

Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu/; www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/

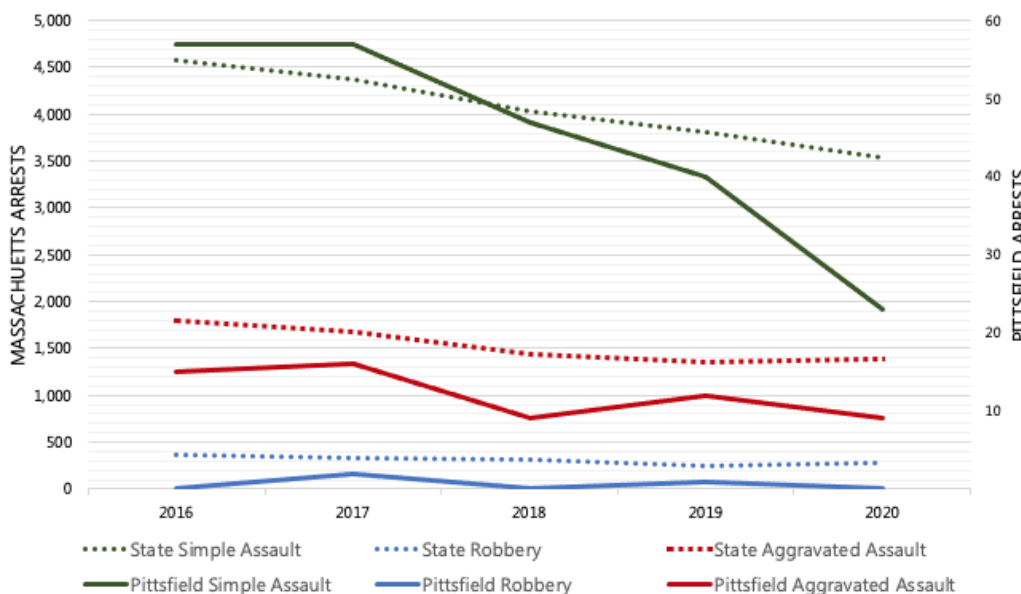
Gang Activity in Pittsfield

30+
Street Gangs

50-75
Gang Members
Under 25

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly reduced the ability of officers to effectively conduct hot spot patrols and interact with individuals to obtain intelligence regarding gang activity. Also, the closure of schools limited interactions between school resource officers and students, which has been a source of information regarding gang activity. Violent events involving juveniles and young adults include shootings, stabbings, home invasions, and activities associated with on-going gang and drug distribution activity. Social media has been a tool used by gangs to recruit and represent their gang; it has led to arguments, retaliation, and violence on the streets. Recruitment/membership from existing gangs was on the rise for some of the national gangs and local sets in Pittsfield, and intelligence officers have identified one new youth gang.

5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020



Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020*

Simple assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 23%
- Pittsfield decreased 60%

Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 24%
- Pittsfield remained level

Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 22%
- Pittsfield decreased 40%

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, the Center on Crime and Community Resilience at Northeastern University, for preparing this brief.